Michael O. Leavitt Governor Ted Stewart Executive Director James W. Carter Division Director 355 West North Temple 3 Triad Center, Suite 350 Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203 801-538-5340 801-359-3940 (Fax) 801-538-5319 (TDD)

November 14, 1994

Mr. David Hodson Barneys Canyon Mine P.O. Box 311 Bingham Canyon, Utah 84006

Re: Revegetation Test Plots, Barney's Canyon Mine, M/035/009, Salt Lake County, Utah

Dear Mr. Hodson:

The Division has reviewed the revegetation test plot report received by the Division November 3, 1994, for the several test plots at the Barney's Canyon mine. The report was prepared by Golder Associates in October, 1994. We appreciate you keeping us informed of the progress of your reclamation efforts.

After reviewing this report, our revegetation specialist offers the following comments regarding this report and the recommendations made.

First, It appeared from the report (page 12), that fertilizer may have been added to the 'seed slurry' in the hydromulcher. If this is true, it could account for much of the low germination. Some reports show over 50% viability loss from seed with as little as 15-20 minutes exposure to 'fertilized slurry'. Fertilizer should always be applied separately from the seed. An early spring fertilization of fall seeding has been productive on other sites.

Considering the drought conditions of the 1994 growing season (drought may have had a bigger impact than what is eluded to by the report), it may be premature to drastically alter your seed mix. Past experience has shown that it may take two or more growing seasons for some of our native species to establish. However, if changes to the seed mix are made, we would like you to consider adding the Great basin wildrye (Elymus cinereus) at 3 lbs/ac., Small burnett (Sanguisorba minor) at 2 lbs/ac. and Forage kochia (Kochia prostrata) at 0.5 lbs/ac. to the mix. These species have good to excellent forage qualities for wildlife and seed is usually readily available (the suggested rates are for broadcast seeding).

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Please fill free to call and discuss any of these comments or changes to the test plots with Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Biologist at 538-5340.

Sincerely,

D. Wayne Hedberg

Permit Supervisor

Minerals Regulatory Program

jb

cc Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

M035009.tsp